



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 22, 2005

This is in response to your November 30, 2004, letter recommending that the Department of Energy (DOE) sponsor a national forum by the end of calendar year 2005 to produce comprehensive solutions to DOE's system-wide waste and material disposition challenges. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I share the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs' goal of achieving "technically sound, fiscally responsible, politically acceptable, sustainable, and comprehensive solutions to DOE's system-wide waste and material disposition challenges."

While I do not believe that a broad new "national forum" would be the best use of EM's resources, we value your input and look forward to working with you on our waste management strategy, and to hearing your comments and recommendations. I would be very interested in any proposals you might offer to overcome specific obstacles to the system-wide waste and material disposition plans which we are now pursuing. I would welcome the SSAB Chairs' insights and support toward our mutual goal of site cleanup.

Again, I very much appreciate the fine work of the SSABs and look forward to building on our effective and productive relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Golan".

Paul M. Golan
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper